





Erasmus+ Programme

«The Role Models Initiative»
The case of
the Pilot Programme “ROLE MODELS”
in Greece
School years 2017-2019

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EU Initiative «Role Models»

- **Aim:** create a network of ROLE MODELS that may inspire pupils/young persons at high risk of drop out, prevent marginalization/radicalisation
- Actions implemented at National Level
- **Pilot Programme “ROLE MODELS” in Greece**

Implementation in three regions:
Eastern Macedonia-Thrace, Crete and Epirus for 2 consecutive school years (2017-2019)




Design of the Pilot Programme

Scientific committee:

Head: Mrs Evangelia Karagiannopoulou, Prof. of Psychology, Dean of the School of Social Sciences at the University of Ioannina, Member of the Board of Director of IKY



Members:

- Prof. Thaleia Dragona, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens
- Assoc. Prof. Theodoros Giovazolias, University of Crete
- Prof. Vasileios Koutras, University of Ioannina
- Prof. Panagiota Vorria, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

Local scientific supervisors: Dr Lydia Mitits, Educator (Eastern Macedonia-Thrace), Mrs Maria Panagiotaki, Psychologist (Crete) and Mrs Tatiana Gatsa, Psychologist (Epirus)



Project Management: Elina Mavrogiorgou, EL01 Erasmus+ NA/IKY

Authorisation of the project received by the Hellenic Ministry of Education, prior to its implementation



Target Groups

- **Pupils coming mainly from underprivileged socio-economic backgrounds, facing multiple obstacles** (Roma, migrant, refugee, Muslim Minority Children, Children with special needs, children living in isolated rural areas, children living in child protection facilities)
- **Holistic approach:**
- Targeting **both** children at high risk of drop out **and** their classmates
- **Different categories of schools/ages/students represented:**
 - **Primary schools** (5th and 6th grade), **Junior High Schools** (Gymnasia), **High Schools** (Lykeia), **Vocational Education Schools**, **Second Chance Schools**
 - During the school year 2017-2018, **first year HE students** were also targeted, through peer counseling activities, senior students serving as **ROLE MODELS** to them
 - During the school year 2018-2019, **High Schools for children with special needs** (Crete and Epirus) and the **Municipality** of Alexandroupolis (Thrace) have also joined

Schools' selection criteria

- Cooperation with the **Regional Educational authorities**
- **Priority** given to schools facing higher drop out levels
- Schools' participation **on a voluntary basis**
- **Mouth to mouth epidemic:** the number of schools almost doubled the second year of implementation
- Schools that participated for a second time served as "Role Models" to new comers, sharing the experience gained during the first year/ **follow up approach – create clusters of schools**

Beneficiaries

2017-2018: 36 schools /850 pupils

2018-2019: 64 schools (29 new comers) /1.500 pupils

Budget:



2017-2018: cost covered by: TCA 37.962,58 + National Funding: 1.818,11 + Management costs: 9.747,44 = **49.528,13 €**

2018-2019: TCA budget 50.000,00 + National Funding 2.361,58 + Management costs:40.160,00 = **92.521,58 €**

Duration:


3-4 months (2017-2018)

6-7 months (2018-2019) / evaluation of results meeting in November 2018, preparation meetings started in December 2018

Implementation of the project:

1. **Training meetings (1-2) for teachers**
 Separate training meetings for teachers of schools hosting children living in child protection facilities (Region of Epirus)
2. **Preparatory activities for pupils:**
 - Discussion on the **reasons behind dropout**/what they like/dislike in their school
 - **What** does a ROLE MODEL mean, **whom** the children consider as a ROLE MODEL and **why**
 - Pupils along with their teachers **proposed ROLE MODELS**
3. **Short training for ROLE MODELS** (University students/graduates coming from underrepresented groups themselves, students with Special needs/learning difficulties, local professionals, athletes, Second chance school pupils, etc)




Implementation of the project


Experiential learning activities:

Core activity- interview with the ROLE MODELS


- Pupils inspired by the interview made posters, songs, small theatrical plays, small documentaries, etc.

4. **Regional dissemination events** gathering pupils and their teachers, hosted at the local Universities (University of Thrace, University of Crete, University of Epirus)

Exhibition of the project deliverables



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Impact

For the pupils

- Enhancement of collaboration and communication skills
- Empowerment/ Self Confidence/ Resilience
- Empathy
- Active participation of pupils-creativity
- Pupils proposed ROLE MODELS themselves-taking initiative
- Pupils took pride on their work-were happy to participate in the project
- Pupils started reflecting about their future-setting targets

For the teachers


- Deeper understanding of pupils' needs and competences
- New ideas for enriching school activities through the integration of the Pilot Programme in the School's curriculum

For the ROLE MODELS:


- Thought their difficult journey through life had finally a meaning since it was helpful for the pupils / Were empowered
- They enjoyed the experience/ Expressed their willingness to visit more schools

For Universities: Societal role of the University enhanced

For Schools: Strengthen the school's capacity to improve its social capital



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Next steps

- Continue the implementation at least for the next school year
- Build on the already existing network of schools
- New regions : Attica
- Create a website
- Create a handbook with guidance and good practice examples
- Organise a valorisation of results meeting gathering participant schools from all 3 regions

